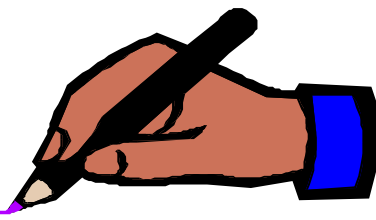


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUMMER 2018

Every morning, I sit on the back patio and enjoy a cup of coffee as I read through the various news articles of the day. Again, the headlines were filled with yet another school shooting...this time in Indiana. The article stated that the shooting occurred at a middle school and two people (a student and a teacher) were shot while the suspect was apprehended. The condition of the victims was not listed. Another article spoke of a shooting that occurred in Oklahoma City where the gun-wielding individual was stopped by a citizen who happened to have a weapon on his person. Just here in our own community, gun shots were heard on Avenue A and victims drove themselves to the hospital for treatment as law enforcement swarmed at the location and later rushed to Somerton where a suspect was taken into custody in relation to the earlier incident. Violence...violence...violence! It seems that news of school and public violence is becoming common-place news that makes headlines until replaced by the next violent acts against youth and the public. What jolted me, however, was that, as of this morning, there have been 24 school shootings/attempted shootings since January 1st of this year! That is approximately one school shooting a week! I guess I shouldn't be surprised by the most recent displays of public and school violence considering that such violence is a staple headline weekly!

Of course, there is a tremendous amount of blaming that occurs following these events. People hurl insults and blame toward those who argue their constitutional right to bear arms, arguing that guns belong only in the hands of law enforcement and military personnel. Of course, there are those who hurl insults and blame toward those who want to remove all guns from the hands of civilians, arguing that it is law-abiding citizens who have often come to the aid of victims being hailed with gunfire from a terrorist seeking revenge or desiring to inflict pain and suffering. And, the arguments are flying high today following this morning's violent activities in Indiana and Oklahoma. I'm certain that people will again spout "mental illness" as the reason behind these violent shootings. And why shouldn't people place blame? It's what people do. To admit any kind of blame would be ludicrous, right?

Yet, as I sat and read the news this morning, I couldn't help but ask myself, "Michael, how have you, yourself, contributed to the violence witnessed in the world?" That question made me very uncomfortable. Personally, I wanted to argue that it was the crazy, gun-toting, yahoo that committed a heinous act in which I had no participation. I wanted to argue that I've never stormed into a public place with the intent of inflicting harm on innocent bystanders. I wanted to argue that I'm loving and patient and kind and gentle and slow to anger. Yes, I wanted to argue all these things. After all, I haven't

contributed in any way to the violence in the world. Or... have I?

If I searched the deep recesses of my existence, I would have to admit that I, too, have contributed. Every time I became angry and spewed hateful words and allowed detestable thoughts swarm my mind...every time I wrote a letter with the intent of making someone squirm...every time I have whispered under my breath words of hatred and malice...Yes, I must admit...I'm not as innocent as I want to believe. Does the same resonate with you, too? Are you guilty of the same things...the same thoughts? Are you just as guilty of the same reasoning? To be blatantly honest, I think we all have to admit that at the core of our sinfulness, we have contributed in some form or fashion to the violence we witness in our broken world. The act of placing blame is a deep-seated tradition first established by Adam and Eve who went to great lengths to blame each other and even God for their disobedience. From that very moment, mankind has continued the trend of placing blame rather than accepting responsibility and accountability for his/her actions. "It wasn't my fault. It was...[fill in the blank]." This is, so often, our reply to being caught red handed. Now what do we do? To admit fault might mean repercussions. But, as I tell my children, "I don't ask you what you did because I don't know. I already know what you did/said. I'm giving you a chance to come clean and tell me the truth."

You see, God already knows our heart. He knows every evil thought, dank word, and disgusting action. Putting up a smoke-screen or trying to gloss it over by putting on a good show only fools those who can't see the heart. To say that "mental illness" is the reason for such horrific acts of violence is a copout. I've known and know today many people who suffer from a variety of what the medical field has coined "mental illness" and never once did they perpetrate such offenses. The root of the problem is not a medical diagnosis! It is much simpler than that...a solution that the world wants to ignore...something the world wants to act as though it doesn't exist.

The root of the problem is "sin." And, there is only one thing that brings about resolve: repentance and forgiveness. In the Divine Service, we confess, "I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment."


But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being" (Lutheran Service Book: Divine Service, Setting Three; Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis, MO, 2006, p. 184). Standing before God we make acknowledgement of our sin and express

Continued on p. 2

sorrow from a sincere and broken heart. Addressing the root problem yields forgiveness as we hear from the mouth of God's servant on earth, "Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Lutheran Service Book: Divine Service, Setting Three; Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis, MO, 2006, p. 185).

Sadly, I'm fairly certain that such acts of violence will continue to occur and fill the headlines. As you consider such things, take heart and know that God is still in control. Find comfort in the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. And know without a doubt that when you stand before the Lord in the nakedness of your sin and confess before him with a broken and contrite heart, God will shower you with His grace and pronounce forgiveness over you...for you are forgiven in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Kessler

 As we near the summer season, events and activities at the church tend to slow down considerably. This means that there is less information to pass along to members through our monthly newsletter. Please be aware that only one newsletter will be sent out over the Summer that will contain information regarding activities and events related to the church for the months of June, July, and August. It is our prayer that your summer is filled with great joy, relaxation, and quality time with family and friends. May God richly bless you all!

Don't forget we do have the on going aluminum can drive for the Parking lot fund. You can drop your cans off in the old kitchen where there are cans and bags available to collect them. Mike & Janet do take them to the recyclers. Thank you.



Recycle aluminum cans
Please continue to bring your cans in.

HELP WANTED! COUNTERS NEEDED

The counters yearly calendar is nearly bare.
For more information to sign up to be a counter please ask Larry & Ann Lee, or Donna Fairchild.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 6PM

If you have a complaint or concern please attend the board meetings so the boards can address the issue.

| 2018 Contributions | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 05/06/2018 | \$3,563.06 |
| 05/13/2018 | \$2,016.84 |
| 05/20/2018 | \$1,352.00 |
| 05/27/2018 | \$1,254.27 |
| Office | \$1,040.18 |

Avg. \$ per week \$2,306.59

Contribution amount needed, per week is **\$3,423.29** to meet current budget.

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Year to date | \$65,607.84 |
| Misc Income | 1,326.48 |
| Fund raiser | |

Avg. \$ per week (26weeks) \$ 2,574.40

Short \$ per week \$ 848.89



2018 Contributions & Expenses MAY (UNRECONCILED)

| GENERAL FUND | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Contributions | \$ 9,227.35 |
| Misc Income | \$ 0.00 |
| Expenses | <u>\$13,009.32</u> |
| Excess/Loss | \$ 3,781.97- |

YEAR TO DATE

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Contributions | \$65,607.84 |
| Misc Income | \$ 1,326.48 |
| Expenses | <u>\$69,470.62</u> |
| Excess/Loss | \$ 2,536.30- |

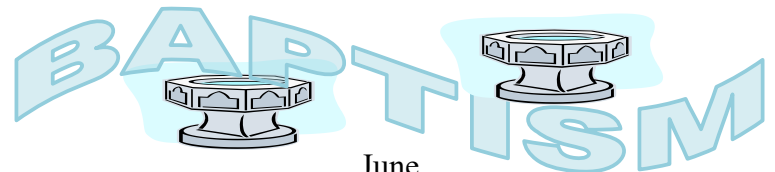
Yearly Short \$ per week \$ 899.91

Parking Lot Fund

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Fund Total as of March 31 | \$20,069.27 |
| Contributions | \$ |
| Aluminum Cans | \$ |
| Fund Total | \$20,069.27 |

As we move into our summer months and everyone is traveling, please prayerfully consider continuing your weekly contributions to Calvary. Our expenses are holding steady, but our Contribution amount needed, per week is **\$3,423.29** to meet the current budget. During May we did not come close to that goal.

Happy Birthday!



| June | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Elizabeth Ehrlich | 06/03 |
| Pearl Gleichman | 06/03 |
| Lillian Keinath | 06/07 |
| Adam Hildestad | 06/12 |
| Pasquale Lamaestra | 06/12 |
| Martha Hill | 06/14 |
| Wilma Replogle | 06/14 |
| Donna Elias | 06/24 |
| Cera Ford | 06/26 |
| JoDee Fraley | 06/29 |
| Diana Schauer | 06/30 |

| July | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Carol Anne Parker | 07/01 |
| Yulius Mustafa | 07/02 |
| Owen Pray | 07/04 |
| Randy Williams | 07/07 |
| Virginia Hildestad | 07/08 |
| Michael Pray | 07/09 |
| Paula Backs | 07/10 |
| Kyle Reinertson | 07/10 |
| Michael Fairchild | 07/11 |
| Heather Torres | 07/11 |
| Michele Hill | 07/12 |
| Craig Ehrlich | 07/13 |
| Maren Green | 07/15 |
| Jim Tyner | 07/17 |
| Sarah Rutledge | 07/21 |
| Albert Claude | 07/27 |
| Diane Clark | 07/28 |
| Bonnie Reinertson | 07/29 |

| August | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Maggie Fenske | 08/05 |
| Matthew Joynt | 08/13 |
| Wilbert Stewart | 08/13 |
| Harry Thornton | 08/15 |
| Candy Murray | 08/16 |
| Sophia Kessler | 08/17 |
| Mary Frances Atchley | 08/20 |
| Alice Tansey | 08/22 |
| Milton Euhus | 08/23 |
| Emma Stewart | 08/24 |
| Donald Timoruski | 08/24 |
| Melissa Fairchild | 08/26 |
| Melvin Parker | 08/29 |
| Jahann Rutledge | 08/29 |
| Sue Gibson | 08/31 |
| John Henderson | 08/31 |

| June | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Johnnie Altstatt | 06/02 |
| Kaden Siharath | 06/05 |
| Heather Torres | 06/05 |
| Kristina Parker | 06/06 |
| Glen Wagner | 06/06 |
| Carter Rutledge | 06/11 |
| Brayden Pray | 06/23 |
| Elizabeth Ehrlich | 06/25 |

| July | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Adam Hildestad | 07/01 |
| Yulius Mustafa | 07/02 |
| Deborah Lamaestra | 07/08 |
| Jeanene Euhus | 07/09 |
| Wilma Replogle | 07/09 |
| Martha Hill | 07/10 |
| Pasquale Lamaestra | 07/13 |
| Diana Schauer | 07/17 |
| Paula Backs | 07/18 |
| Albert Claude | 07/28 |
| Cera Ford | 07/28 |
| Sarah Rutledge | 07/29 |

| August | |
|-------------------|-------|
| JoDee Fraley | 08/05 |
| Katie Holman | 08/10 |
| Craig Ehrlich | 08/14 |
| Harry Thornton | 08/15 |
| Candy Murray | 08/16 |
| Owen Pray | 08/19 |
| Shannon Cady | 08/19 |
| Michael Pray | 08/22 |
| Bonnie Reinertson | 08/27 |
| Milton Euhus | 08/28 |



| June | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Reginald & Judy Jahn | 06/07 |
| JoDee & Charles Fraley | 06/10 |

| July | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Candy & Steve Murray | 07/08 |
| Wilbert & Betty Stewart | 07/09 |
| Randy & Sherri Williams | 07/13 |
| Donald & Gladys Timoruski | 07/19 |

| August | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ray & Dorothy Huter | 08/08 |
| Ted & Arlene Schauer | 08/11 |
| Lawrence & Ann Lee | 08/16 |
| James & Sue Gibson | 08/18 |

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING March 13, 2018

PRESENT- Pat Lamaestra, Janet Ehrlich, Larry Lee, Bruce Fenske, Debbie Lamaestra, Lisa Elam, Johnnie Altstatt, Pastor Kessler, Brian Atchley

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 with an opening prayer from Pastor Kessler.

MINUTES-The minutes from Feb were reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept the minutes with a spelling correction of Debbie's name. Debbie 2nd. The motion was passed.

TREASURER- The report was reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept the report. Larry 2nd. The motion was passed. Johnnie mentioned this is the first time in a while where contributions are higher than expenses.

PRESIDENT- no report

VICE PRESIDENT- no report

SECRETARY- no report

TREASURER- no report

PASTOR- report presented

ELDERS- They are preparing for Easter. They are also moving forward in regards to Church safety and are working on a written protocol.

MISSION- This Saturday at 2:00 they are hosting a movie afternoon showing Wonder. They have been discussing a food drive, possibly in June. There has been a request for another picnic. It will be talked about again in the fall. Debbie asked Johnnie about the quilt sizes the quilting group makes. The board is thinking the quilts can be sent to the orphanage in Mexico. Janet thinks they have to be new since clothing has to be new.

EDUCATION- not present

STEWARDSHIP-They are taking pictures for the directory. They are also updating the information for it. They are working with the elders about taking pictures of our shut ins.

TRUSTEES- They have decided that removing old asphalt and replacing with 2 inch asphalt is the best route to go. They will continue to raise money. They have a quote from SWP which is \$27,000 for just the large parking lot. The office computer got a serious virus called cigma ransom. They may have to do a factory restore. All of the financial documents are backed up through a paid service. The Easter breakfast will be set up the day before.

NEW BUSINESS- Someone asked about the Frys receipt total. The money comes in quarterly so when we receive it we will post on the bulletin board. A security team needs to be formed in order to proceed with the Church security plan.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Newsletter articles due by the 15th. Bruce motioned to adjourn the meeting, Larry 2nd. Motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

CALVARY LUCHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 10th, 2018

PRESENT: Pat Lamaestra, Brian Atchley, Johnnie Altstatt, Janet Ehrlich, Donna Fairchild, Bruce Fenske, and Debbie Lamaestra.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with an opening prayer from Elder Bruce Fenske.

MINUTES – March 13th minutes were reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept the minutes, Brian 2nd.

THEASURER – Correction noted. Reimbursable Expenses should be 3643.00 vice 2643.00. Brian motioned to accept the report, Bruce 2nd.

PRESIDENT – None

VICE PRESIDENT – None

SECRETARY – Not present. Janet needs the January and February minutes re-emailed to her because they were lost

with the computer crash.

TREASURER – None. Janet needs the January and February finance report re-emailed to her because they were lost with the computer crash.

PASTOR – Not present.

ELDERS – No report. They have not met since last meeting.

MISSIONS – Orphan clothing; \$574.25 worth of clothing was purchased to 31 children. Movie; "Wonder" was shown on March 17th and there was a nice turnout. Money from the Luther Movie; Having problem getting it out of MyPay. Merian offered to pay out her pocket but the money will be returned to her. Higher Things subscription; Hold off until next year when we have children who are of an age that can take advantage of it.

PARISH EDUCATION - None

STEWARDSHIP – Pictures are still being taken for the new Church directory.

TRUSTEES – Milton is putting a new hook on the wall to shut down the south side during summer. Announce which week that side is closed will be coming. Parking lot; Full amount of what is in the fund will be updated in next month's finance report to include the Easter donations. We are still about \$13,000.00 short and looking at other avenues to get the rest needed. The project will have to be delayed for now.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There where three fundraisers going at one time. Flowers, Pastor's Assistance fund and the parking lot fund. There are flowers that have not been paid for. We shouldn't be doing so many fund raisers at one time.

NEW BUSINESS – Thank you to all who helped with Easter breakfast. Over \$500.00 was raised.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Computer is up and running and everything is being saved to the "Cloud". Newsletter articles due by the 15th. Closing Prayer. Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bruce 2nd. Motion approved at 7:38 p.m.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MAY 8, 2018

PRESENT- Pat Lamaestra, Pastor Kessler, Debbie Lamaestra, Bruce Fenske, Lisa Elam, Brian Atchley

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with an opening prayer from Pastor Kessler.

MINUTES- The minutes were reviewed. Lisa motioned to accept, Brian 2nd. Motion was passed.

TREASURER- There was a correction to CD interest to read \$ 2100.84 instead of \$2100.27. Debbie motioned to accept the report, Brian 2nd. Motion was passed.

PRESIDENT- No report

VICE PRESIDENT- No report

SECRETARY-No report

TREASURER-No report

PASTOR-Report presented

ELDERS- They have drafted security roles to the elders and the ushers. There will be an usher training session on July 28.

MISSION- Last year they held a food drive in July. This year it will be moved to June. A box will be in the parish hall.

EDUCATION- Not present

STEWARDSHIP- They have counters lined up until July.

TRUSTEES- The doors will be re-oiled soon. They are discussing a security door for the office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS-None

GOOD OF THE ORDER-Newsletter articles are due by the 15th. Pastor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Johnnie 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. and was closed with The Lord's Prayer.